



TRUMAN VA BULLETIN

Take Note:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS—COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

VOLUME 2009, ISSUE 20

Monday, Oct. 12 (Columbus Day) is an observed Federal Holiday.

Cheryl Alexander (CS), **Tanya Lee** (BH) and **William Trumbower** (OI&T) have been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Contact **Lena Warren** (HR) for information.



VETERAN TOWN HALLS / LISTENING POST EVENTS

The Missouri Veterans Commission, six Veteran service partners and VA have embarked on a joint effort to conduct Town Hall/Listening Posts for Veterans across the state of Missouri. Between Sept. 14 and Oct. 28, there will be 21 Town Hall/Listening Post events conducted. The Veteran service partners include AMVETS, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America and Marine Parents. Representatives from VA medical centers and

the St. Louis VA regional office are participating in all 21 events, which have been endorsed by the Missouri Military Preparedness Enhancement Commission, the Department of Veterans Affairs (Veterans Health Administration and Veterans Benefits Administration), the Missouri National Guard and the Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations.

Truman VA staff members have attended the events in Kirksville, Hannibal, St. Robert and Mexico and will

participate in the Columbia event on Oct. 5 at the local American Legion post home. The major goals of these events are (1) to encourage Veterans to avail themselves of benefits they have earned including enrolling in the VA health care system (2) to provide a forum for Veterans to express concerns about those services and benefits and (3) to obtain feedback and information for a report to the governor of Missouri.

OCTOBER 8 MISSOURI VS. NEBRASKA FOOTBALL GAME

The rare and unique Thursday night football game on Oct. 8 between Missouri and Nebraska will present numerous logistical challenges for Truman VA as well as the University of Missouri. This will be the first mid-week game hosted by Missouri in 17 years. The parking lots for football game fans will open at approximately 4:30 p.m. and traffic in the area surrounding the stadium will be congested prior to that time up to the 8:00 p.m. kickoff.

In order to spare some of our outpatients the anticipated frustration of that traffic con-

gestion, all afternoon clinics on Thursday, October 8 have been cancelled. Supervisors have been advised to liberally approve annual leave requests for that afternoon as long as key activities are covered. Two University of Missouri parking garages, including the one in which Truman VA employees park (parking garage #7, located at Monk Drive and Hospital Drive), will not be available for general public football game parking. VA employees that park there will not need to move their vehicles prior to the football game. However, University of Missouri officials have ad-

vised that there will be increased congestion both inside and outside the parking garage. For more information, visit the MizzouGameday.com Web site for all information related to football game parking and recommended traffic flow.



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COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

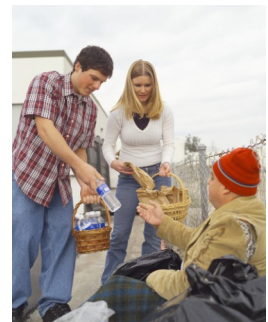


It is that time of the year again when federal employees have the opportunity to participate voluntarily in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). To date, staff members have been identified as key persons to assist with and collect local CFC pledges and contributions. These employees will work until the end of October to ensure that each Truman VA staff member has been given the opportunity to contribute.

The most important person in the CFC is you! Your contribution, whatever the amount, can help build a better community here in mid-Missouri or elsewhere as there are hundreds of worthy CFC-funded efforts. This year, more than ever before, people are looking to CFC-funded agencies and programs for help.

- After losing their jobs, families that have never needed help before are seeking food assistance to help feed their children.
- Working parents are relying on CFC-funded child care agencies for services that help them keep their jobs.
- Home bound seniors continue to live independently through programs that can provide a home-delivered meal once a day.
- At-risk youth find safety, help with their school work and positive role models in CFC-funded youth programs.
- Social service agencies are facing local, state and federal funding cuts due to budget constraints this year.

We believe that federal employees can help lead the way. Our goal is to exceed what we raised last year so that CFC-funded agencies can continue to focus on meeting the needs of our fellow citizens. Please open your hearts and wallets when contacted. The area-wide goal for all federal agencies is \$150,000 and our facility goal is \$50,000. For more information, contact your service line key persons or **Paul Kurzejeski** (SC), local area-wide CFC chair.



HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (HBCU)

VA actively pursues and maintains affiliations with some of the most prestigious medical schools in the country including several Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Through those academic partnerships, VA has been responsible for training more than half of all doctors in the U.S. today. Of note, 85 percent of black physicians in this country are graduates of HBCUs.

Truman VA supports HBCUs with the following activities:

- Maintaining an active affiliation agreement with Lincoln University, an Historically Black University in Jefferson City.
- Participating in Lincoln University's spring and fall career fairs.
- Recruitment – one Lincoln University nursing school graduate and one nursing school student hired in FY 2009.
- Participating in VA's Student Career Exploration Pro-

gram – one Human Resources Administrative Support Assistant selected from Lincoln University in FY 2009.

- Participating in speaking engagements at Lincoln University School of Nursing.

OCTOBER SERVICE PIN RECIPIENTS

40-Years

James E. Clasby
Program Support Assistant
(HAS)

30-Years

Joseph P. Johnston
Maintenance Mechanic (FM)

25-Years

Jeffery B. Kimbro, Sr.
HR Assistant (HR)

20-Years

William P. Fay, MD
Staff Physician (SC)

Laura D. Lewis, RN
Staff Nurse (PS)

Larry D. Stafford, RN
Staff Nurse (PS)

15-Years

Mark J. Alexander
Program Support Clerk (HAS)

10-Years

Jack R. Fisher
Biomedical Equipment Support Specialist (FM)

Diana M. Langdon, LPN (PS)

Joe T. Matheny, Jr.
Health Technician (PS)

Denise R. Simmons
Physician Assistant (SC)

5-Years

Normand R. Caron, MD
Staff Physician (SC)

Jane Daniel
Patient Services Assistant (SC)

John L. Govan
Housekeeping Aid (FM)

Elizabeth R. Veirs, RN
Staff Nurse (PS)



VA PRIVACY DAY PRIZE WINNERS

On Sept. 9, we celebrated VA Privacy Day by focusing on protecting and securing accessible information within the medical center. Congratulations to the following employees for being winners of the Privacy and Information word search puzzle:

- **Michelle Wallenmeyer** (HAS) – first place (\$30 gift certificate for the VA Canteen Service)
- **Julie Riley** (PC) – second place (electric skillet)
- **Faye Smith** (PS) – third place (picture frame clock).





Department of Veteran Affairs—Columbia, Missouri

Harry S. Truman Memorial
Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia, Missouri 65201

Phone: 573-814-6000

HARRY S. TRUMAN MEMORIAL VETERANS HOSPITAL

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FAREWELL

Jennifer Buckman, LPN (PS)

Charles Gough,
Police Officer (Police)

Nikakshi Gupta, MD,
Staff Anesthesiologist (SC)

Alice Landrum, MD,
Staff Anesthesiologist (SC)

Marsha Leigh, Industrial Hygienist (FM)

Robyn Lutz,
Pharmacy Technician (Pharmacy)

Juanita Robinson,
Director, Health Administration (HAS)

Airel Saunders, Nursing Aide (PS)

Kim Sipe,
Diagnostic Radiologic Technologist (CS)

HELP HOSPITALIZED VETERANS—DID YOU KNOW?

▣ Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV), the nation's largest supplier of therapeutic arts and crafts kits to VAMCs and military hospitals, has served hospitalized Veterans since 1971.

▣ During FY 2008, HHV provided nearly 30 percent –in excess of \$24 million in value for arts and crafts kits and direct support to VA's Summer Sports Clinic, Creative Arts Festival, Valentines for Veterans Concerts and the Golden Age Games – of the monetary and non-monetary donations received by VA.

▣ HHV has shipped 168,250 arts and crafts kits with a retail value of nearly \$1.8 million to Truman VA as of July 31, 2009.

NEW EMPLOYEES



WELCOME

Andrea Blaschak,
Nuclear Medicine Technologist (CS)

Glenda Ellis,
Reimbursable Billing Technician (FIN)

Steven MacDonald, OD,
Staff Optometrist (SC)

Sherry Melton,
Medical Support Assistant (COS)

Lauren Stephenson,
Medical Technician (CS)

Nancy Summers,
Program Support Clerk (HAS)

Robert Thomas, MD,
Staff Physician (PC)

Angela Tummons, RN,
Staff Nurse (PS)

Susan Welch, LPN (PS)

Frederick Wilson, MD,
Staff Physician (PC)

ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM? THANK A VETERAN!